

DOJ Violent Crime Reduction Initiatives in Memphis, Tennessee



DOJ Violent Crime Reduction Initiatives

11/28/2018 Announcement	ATF Strikeforce
----------------------------	-----------------

11/13/2019 Guardian Announcement	Project
-------------------------------------	---------

12/18/2019 Relentless Pursuit Phase I Announcement	Operation
---	-----------

06/15/2020 Relentless Pursuit Phase II Launches	Operation
--	-----------

08/06/2020 LeGend Announcement	Operation
-----------------------------------	-----------

Operation Relentless Pursuit Phase I

Phase I of Operation Relentless Pursuit (ORP I): Announced 12/18/2019 - was led by the United States Marshals Service (USMS). They focused on the apprehension of individuals with outstanding arrest warrants that are violent in nature, gun related warrants and felony drug traffickers. Many of these wanted persons had outstanding warrants related to Memphis murders.

- **Federal Agents:**
- 28 – DUSMS / TFO's (task force officers)
- 3 – ATF Agents
- 8 – DEA Agents
- 2 – FBI Criminal Analysts
- 15 – MPD Officers
- 4 – SCSO Deputies

ORP I – Stats and Success Stories

US Marshals Service Stats

480	Arrest Warrants Cleared
434	Violent Fugitive Arrests
64	Gang Members Identified
90	Firearms Seized
4	Vehicles Seized
20.7 Kilos	Narcotics Seized (assorted illegal prescription pills)
\$51,000.00	US Currency Seized

Gang Members Identified by USMS

34	Crips
2	Bloods
10	Gangster Disciples
12	Vice Lords
6	Other (hybrid gang members)

**ORPI –
Stats and
Success
Stories**

MGU/ATF/DEA/FBI Stats	
257	Felony Arrests
20	Misdemeanor Arrests
277	Total Arrests
35	Murder Related Arrests
85	Gun Stat Arrests
88	Gang Members Arrested
\$48,951.00	US Currency Seized
2	Vehicles Seized
46	Handguns Seized
11	Long Guns Seized



MGU detectives with assistance from the ATF Strike force arrested Steven Taylor for PCS W/I Marijuana, Convicted Felon Possession Handgun, Possession Firearm/Commission Dangerous Felony, Window Tint and No Driver's License. Surveillance, prior to the execution of a search warrant, found Taylor driving a gray, 2015 Nissan Maxima (seized), with illegal window tint. A traffic stop was made and Taylor was found driving on an ineligible driver's license. Taylor was detained and a search of his vehicle revealed a Smith & Wesson SD9VE handgun. Taylor was initially arrested for being a convicted felon in possession of a handgun. A search warrant was executed on Taylor's residence where the following was seized: Marijuana (14.12 lbs.), 4 rifles (2 were reported stolen), 2 handguns (1 was reported stolen), \$41,775 and a 2005 Dodge Ram. Taylor has no documented gang affiliations and was an unconfirmed Gangster Disciple.



ORP – Stats and Success Stories

121

1496 Northside Drive #1

Old Allen

Warrant Arrest

On October 3, 2020 MPD Uniform patrol officers responded to a shooting in the 2300 block of Pendleton. Upon arrival, they discovered Joseph Hill laying face down and suffering from multiple gunshots. Hill was a 21 year old male who was survived by his mother and other siblings. During the course of the investigation Daniel Locke was developed as the person responsible for murdering Hill. MPD Homicide investigators were able to secure an arrest warrant for Locke, charging him with Hill's murder.

MPD Homicide investigators enlisted assistance from MGU and the US Marshals Fugitive Task Force.

During Operation Relentless Pursuit, MGU detectives, MPD Homicide and U.S. Deputy Marshals located and arrested Daniel Locke, on that warrant charging him with 1st Degree Murder and Unlawful Possession of Weapon. During Locke's arrest, a search warrant was executed on the arrest location; wherein, an Intratec Tec 9 9mm pistol, an American Tactical Omni 300 Blackout pistol and a Ruger P93DC 9mm pistol were seized. The Tec 9 pistol was identified as possibly being the murder weapon. Locke was entered in TAG as a member of the Grape Street Crips.



Operation Relentless Pursuit Phase II

9

Federal Agents Assigned to this phase: June 15, 2020 - Present

- **ATF Special Agents** – ATF serves as the lead federal agency in ORP Phase II
 - 25 Special Agents
- **FBI**
 - 1 Special Agent and 1 Crime Analyst embedded in the Homicide Bureau
 - Offered a \$25,000.00 reward in the murders of 6-year-old Ashlynn Luckett and 16-year-old Lequan Boyd
- **Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)**
 - 6 Special Agents
- **USMS and DEA**
 - Will provide assistance as needed relative to violent fugitive apprehension and long-term Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO) investigations; respectfully
- **Multi-Agency Gang Unit** – 28 MPD and 21 SCSO

ORP II – Stats and Success Stories

MGU and ATF ORP Stats June 15, 2020 – August 14, 2020

94	Felony Arrests
24	Misdemeanor Arrests
118	Total Arrests
22	Murder Related Arrests
33	Gun Stat Arrests
55	Gang Members Arrested
\$491,575.40	US Currency Seized
14	Vehicles Seized
42	Handguns Seized
13	Long Guns Seized

Operation Par 6

On Saturday, April 11, 2020, OAS officers responded to a shooting call at 823 Par Ave. Upon their arrival, they located 6-year-old Aison Golden, inside the residence; unresponsive. He was later pronounced deceased. The investigation revealed that several males were firing shots in the intersection of Early and Par and several rounds struck 823 Par; with one shot fatally wounding Aison. Homicide, MGU and ATF collaborated and were able to identify Ronnekil Johnson and James Murphy as two of the shooters. Both were subsequently indicted by the Shelby County Grand Jury for First Degree Murder, 14 Counts of Criminal Attempt First Degree Murder and 14 Counts of Aggravated Assault. On August 6, 2020 investigators with MPD Homicide, MGU, Austin-Peay Station Task Force and ATF Special Agents, executed several search and arrest warrants on several locations believed to be hide-outs of Johnson, Murphy and several persons of interest in this murder. Johnson and Murphy were located, arrested and charged accordingly.



Mother of 6-year old Aison Golden Reacts after 2 men arrested & Charged in the murder of her son!

<https://www.fox13memphis.com/news/local/mother-6-year-old-boy-reacts-after-two-men-arrested-charged-murder-her-son/TEOZAS6PYBCCJOZO5ODF4G35KI/>



\$25,000 REWARD



LEQUAN DEQUEZ BOYD AND ASHLYNN DENAE' LUCKETT

**HOMICIDE VICTIMS
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
JANUARY 20, 2020**



LeQuan Dequez Boyd



Ashlynn Denae' Lockett

REWARD

The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$25,000 for information leading to the identification and arrest of the individual(s) responsible for the homicides of LeQuan Dequez Boyd and Ashlynn Denae' Lockett.

DETAILS

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Memphis Field Office, federal partners, and the Memphis Police Department in Tennessee are seeking the public's assistance in identifying the individual(s) responsible for the deaths of Ashlynn Denae' Lockett and LeQuan Dequez Boyd on January 20, 2020.

On the night of January 20, 2020, Memphis police officers reported to a shooting at a Hickory Hill residence in Memphis, Tennessee. When police arrived on the scene, they found six-year-old Ashlynn Lockett and sixteen-year-old LeQuan Boyd had been struck by gunfire while they were inside their home. Lockett and Boyd were transported to local hospitals, where they both died as a result of their injuries.

Anyone with information regarding these homicides is encouraged to contact the FBI's Memphis Field Office at (901) 747-4300, the FBI tip line at 1-800-CALL-FBI (225-5324), or may submit tips at tips.fbi.gov. You may also contact the Memphis Police Department's Crime Stoppers tips hotline at (901) 528-CASH (2274). You may also contact your local FBI office, or the nearest American Embassy or Consulate.

Field Office: Memphis

www.fbi.gov

DOJ Reward Poster Boyd – Lockett Murders

ORP II (LeGend) – Success Stories

Joshua Dotson – TBI Most Wanted – US Marshals Regional Gulf Coast Fugitive Task Force – MPD Homicide Bureau

On November 17, 2019, Divieon Parker was murdered in the 1400 block of Elvis Presley Blvd. He had been shot multiple times.

On May 24, 2020, Reginald Anderson was shot and killed while in the parking lot in the 1300 block of Bellevue. Renita Bennett was also shot multiple times during this incident; but she initially survived her injuries.

On June 12, 2020, Jamesha Covson was shot and killed at her residence in the 1200 block of Quinn Avenue. Covson was the girlfriend of Joshua Dotson. She was several months pregnant at the time of her murder and her unborn child died as a result.

Joshua Dotson was developed as the person responsible for all of these murders. Arrest warrants were issued for his arrest and he was placed on the TBIs Most Wanted Fugitives.

On June 18, 2020, Dotson was tracked to an address in Nashville, TN. His capture was a collaboration between the U.S. Marshals Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force Memphis Office, the Memphis Police Department Homicide Bureau, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the Tennessee Highway Police SWAT team, the Nashville Metropolitan Police and the Nashville U.S. Marshals Office.

On August 6, 2020, Ms. Anderson died as a result of injuries she sustained when she was shot by Dotson.

TBI Most Wanted

Joshua Dotson



Federal Assistance Prior to December 2019

ATF Strikeforce – (media release except)

On November 28, 2018, Acting U.A. Attorney General Matthew G. Whitaker was in Memphis to announce a new Memphis Crime Gun Strike Force, led by the ATF with assistance from the MPD.

*****NOTE: The ATF has been the federal sponsoring agency for the Multi-Agency Gang Unit since it's inception in 2011.**

ATF Strikeforce – Memphis II Success Stories

ATF Memphis II and MGU NIT

227 Browning Ave. Report# 1908013972ME

On 08/27/2019, MPD Officers responded to a Shooting at 2271 Browning Ave. Upon arrival, Officers discovered a 7-year-old juvenile had been struck twice by gunfire and transported to LeBonheur Hospital by private vehicle. The location was struck with over 40 rounds of gunfire and there were 12 other victims inside during the shooting.

On 08/28/2019, the NIT and ATF Strike Force spoke to several victims from the residence who provided the nickname of AJ or Alex, as a suspect. Detectives conducted further research and found a subject by the name of Alexander Lewis (02/23/2000) with an address of, 4027 Powder Mill Cove. Detectives canvassed the area and observed the suspect vehicle parked in front of 4027 Long Creek Ave. The suspect exit the vehicle and went inside the residence. Detectives knocked on the door and located Lewis inside of the residence, along with Malik Martin and Javario Martin. Detectives contacted Airways Station GIB Investigators, who advised to have all 3 suspects transported to Airways Station.

MGU and ATF secured the residence on Long Creek and conducted a search warrant. Inside the residence detectives located: a Glock 40 caliber handgun, Draco 7.62, Olympic Arms rifle, and an American Tactical rifle.

Both A. Lewis and M. Martin waived their Miranda Rights and gave a statement of admission to the shooting. All three suspects were charged with Criminal Attempt First Degree Murder and 12 Counts of Aggravated Assault. J. Martin received an additional charge of Employment of a Firearm During the Commission of a Violent Felony.

Media Links

DOJ Media Release
Project Guardian

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/attorney-general-william-p-barr-announces-launch-project-guardian-nationwide-strategic-plan>

DOJ Media Release
Operation Relentless
Pursuit Phase 1

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdtn/pr/attorney-general-william-p-barr-announces-launch-operation-relentless-pursuit>

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdtn/pr/memphis-and-shelby-county-receive-more-eleven-million-dollars-awards-support-efforts>

WMC TV 5 Video
Operation Relentless
Pursuit Video

<https://www.wmcactionnews5.com/2019/12/18/local-law-enforcement-participate-operation-relentless-pursuit/>

Operation Par 6

<https://www.fox13memphis.com/news/local/mother-6-year-old-boy-reacts-after-two-men-arrested-charged-murder-her-son/TEOZAS6PYBCCJOZO5ODF4G35KI/>

Operation LeGend Memphis Participating Agencies

